PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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(71)Applicant: SOMIC ISHIKAWA:KK

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(72)Inventor: SUZUKI YOSHIHIRO

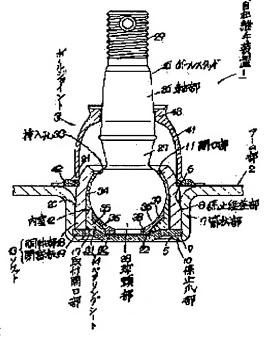
INAGAKI KAZUYA SUZUKI MANABU

(54) UNIVERSAL JOINT DEVICE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To enable a boll joint to be easily mounted to an arm part with a simple structure.

SOLUTION: A substantially cylindrical part 7 is formed in a projecting shape by working a steel plate with a press machine. The part 7 has an insertion opening 5 at its tip as well as has its axial direction in its thickness direction. A locking stepped part 8 whose inner diameter becomes large at its tip is formed at the inner circumferential surface of the part 7. On the outer circumferential face of a substantially cylindrical body part 18, a stepped part 20 is formed. The part 20 accommodates a ball head 28 of a ball stud 15 through a bearing sheet 14 and having a small outer diameter on the side of an opening 11 from which a shaft part 26 is led out. The body part 18 is inserted from the tip side of the cylindrical part 7, and a mounting opening part 17 side of the body part 18 is closed with a closing plate 19. A locking pawl 10 formed by caulking the tip of the cylindrical part 7 is locked to the closing plate 19, and then a ball joint 3 is mounted to an arm part 2. With such a simple structure, a socket 13 can be mounted without looseness, thereby improving productivity.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The ball stud which equipped the end with the shank with a head bulb, and the bearing sheet which carried out opening of the insertion hole with which said head bulb is held possible [sliding], and said shank is inserted in, Have [it is formed in the socket equipped with the room while holding the head bulb of said ball stud which carried out opening of the opening which inserts the shank of said ball stud in the end of shaft orientations, and was held in said bearing sheet, and abbreviation tabular, and] shaft orientations in the thickness direction and are approximately cylindrical. Fit-in maintenance of the fit-in of said socket is enabled only from a tip side. Universal-joint equipment characterized by providing the arm section with the tubed part which stops on the other end edge of the side and the opposite side where said ball stud of said socket by which the stop claw part by which caulking formation was carried out in the inner direction was fitted in the point projects, and attaches said socket.

[Claim 2] It is universal-joint equipment according to claim 1 which a socket has the level difference section from which an opening side serves as small diameter in a peripheral face, and is characterized by the tubed part of the arm section having the stop level difference section which a tip side becomes inner skin with path size, and is stopped in the level difference section of said socket.

[Claim 3] A socket is universal-joint equipment according to claim 1 or 2 characterized by providing the lock out plate with which the idiosoma which prepared the level difference section from which opening of the opening which inserts the shank of a ball stud in an end is carried out, opening of the attachment opening is carried out to the other end, and said opening side becomes a peripheral face with a minor diameter, and the stop claw part by which blockades said attachment opening and caulking formation is carried out at the tubed part of the arm section are attached by stopping.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention] [0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the universal-joint equipment which attached in the arm section the socket which holds a head bulb possible [sliding]. [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Conventionally, as this kind of universal-joint equipment, the configuration of a publication etc. is known by JP,56-10816,A and JP,5-26333,Y, for example.

[0003] And universal-joint equipment given in JP,56-10816,A fits in the socket of the ball stud which held in the socket the head bulb which prepared in the end of the shank of a ball stud and was held in the approximately cylindrical tubed part prepared in the arm section by press working of sheet metal by the bearing sheet, and constituted it. And it is made to engage with the crevice which carried out caulking deformation and prepared a part for the point of a tubed part in the inner direction at the socket peripheral face, and a swivel joint is clipped in the arm section.

[0004] However, with universal-joint equipment given in this JP,56-10816,A, while the process which makes the amount of [of a tubed part] point engage with the crevice of a socket with a sufficient precision in total is complicated, in case the holding power of the socket by engagement is use not much strongly, there is a possibility that shakiness may arise in a socket and the tubed part of the arm section.

[0005] Moreover, universal-joint equipment given in JP,5-26333,Y fits in the socket which holds the head bulb which prepared in the end of the shank of a ball stud and was held in the approximately cylindrical tubed part prepared in the arm section by burring which is press working of sheet metal by the bearing sheet, and constitutes a ball stud. And the tip edge of a tubed part was made to stop in total the edge of a side and the opposite side where the shank of the ball stud of a socket projects by coining etc., or press working of sheet metal was carried out, press working of sheet metal of the excess metal part was carried out further, it deforms into the tip edge of a tubed part, and it was stopped so that the peripheral face of a tubed part might be shaved off, and the swivel joint is attached in the arm section. Moreover, a swivel joint fits a lock out plate in attachment opening which carries out opening to the end face of the opposite side the side which the shank of the ball stud of a socket inserts in, blockades, and is constituted by carrying out caulking deformation of the attachment verge of opening of a socket in the inner direction, and attaching a lock out

[0006] However, the process which attaches a lock out plate in a socket and constitutes a swivel joint from universal-joint equipment given in above-mentioned JP,5-26333,Y, and the process which attaches in the arm section the socket which constitutes a swivel joint are required, and it is hard to aim at further improvement in manufacturability.

[0007] Furthermore, the configuration which attaches a swivel joint in the arm section is also known by welding the socket which constitutes a swivel joint to the arm section as conventional universal-joint equipment.

[0008] However, with the configuration which welds the socket which constitutes a swivel joint to this arm section, while it is difficult to weld a socket with high precision, processing of a rust resistor is needed for a weld, and improvement in manufacturability cannot be aimed at.

[0009]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] As mentioned above, while the process which makes the amount of [of a tubed part] point engage with the crevice of a socket with a sufficient precision in total is complicated, with conventional universal-joint equipment given in above-mentioned JP,56-10816,A, there is a possibility that shakiness may arise in a socket and the tubed part of the arm section, in the case of use.

[0010] Moreover, the process which attaches a lock out plate in a socket and constitutes a swivel joint from conventional universal-joint equipment given in above-mentioned above-mentioned JP,5-26333,Y, and the process which attaches in the arm section the socket which constitutes a swivel joint are required, and it is hard to aim at further improvement in manufacturability.

[0011] Furthermore, with the configuration which welds the socket which constitutes a swivel joint to the above-mentioned arm section, while it is difficult to weld a socket with high precision, processing of a rust resistor is needed for a weld, and there is a problem which cannot aim at improvement in manufacturability. [0012] This invention was made in view of the above-mentioned trouble, and aims at offering the universal-joint equipment which can attach a swivel joint in the arm section easily with easy structure. [0013]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The ball stud to which universal-joint equipment according to claim 1 equipped the end with the shank with a head bulb, The bearing sheet which carried out opening of the insertion hole in which said head bulb is held possible [sliding], and said shank is inserted, Have [it is formed in the socket equipped with the room while holding the head bulb of said ball stud which carried out opening of the opening which inserts the shank of said ball stud in the end of shaft orientations, and was held in said bearing sheet, and abbreviation tabular, and] shaft orientations in the thickness direction and are approximately cylindrical. Enable fit-in maintenance of the fit-in of said socket only from a tip side, and the arm section with the tubed part which stops on the other end edge of the side and the opposite side where said ball stud of said socket by which the stop claw part by which caulking formation was carried out in the inner direction was fitted in the point projects, and attaches said socket is provided.

[0014] And in order to stop and attach the stop claw part which formed in the inner direction in total the point of the approximately cylindrical tubed part which enables fit-in maintenance of the fit-in of the socket equipped with the room while holding the head bulb of the ball stud which is prepared in the abbreviation tabular arm section, has shaft orientations in the thickness direction, and is held in a bearing sheet only from a tip side in the other-end edge of a side and the opposite side on which the ball stud of a socket projects, it shakes and a socket is attached certainly [there is nothing and].

[0015] Universal-joint equipment according to claim 2 has the level difference section from which, as for a socket, an opening side becomes a peripheral face with small diameter in universal-joint equipment according to claim 1, a tip side becomes inner skin with path size, and the tubed part of the arm section has the stop level difference section stopped in the level difference section of said socket.

[0016] And in order to prepare the stop level difference section stopped in the level difference section prepared so that a tip side might serve as path size and an opening side might serve as small diameter at the peripheral face of a socket in the inner skin of the tubed part of the arm section, with easy structure, a socket shakes to it certainly and it is attached in it that there is nothing.

[0017] Universal-joint equipment according to claim 3 possesses the lock out plate attached by the idiosoma which prepared the level difference section from which a socket carries out opening of the opening which inserts the shank of a ball stud in an end, opening of the attachment opening is carried out to the other end, and said opening side becomes a peripheral face with a minor diameter, and the stop claw part by which blockades said attachment opening and caulking formation is carried out at the tubed part of the arm section stopping in universal-joint equipment according to claim 1 or 2.

[0018] And attachment opening of the other end of the idiosoma which prepared the level difference section from which opening of the opening which inserts the shank of a ball stud in an end is carried out, and an opening side serves as small diameter at a peripheral face is blockaded with a lock-out plate, in order to stop and attach in a lock-out plate the stop claw part which formed the tubed part of the arm section in total, the actuation which forms a socket, and the actuation which attaches a socket in the arm section turn into 1 actuation, and manufacturability improves.

[0019]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, one gestalt of operation of the universal-joint equipment of this invention is explained with reference to a drawing.

[0020] In <u>drawing 1</u>, 1 is a body of universal-joint equipment, and this body 1 of universal-joint equipment is used for the link mechanism which connects the car height sensor arm and suspension of the automobile which is not illustrated, for example. And this body 1 of universal-joint equipment has the arm section 2. This arm section 2 is formed with the steel plate of the shape for example, of an elongated plate, and the swivel joint 3 is formed in the end side of a longitudinal direction.

[0021] That is, while carrying out opening of the insertion opening 5 at the tip which has shaft orientations and projects in accordance with a thickness dimension, the approximately cylindrical tubed part 7 which

carries out opening of the attachment opening 6 to a end face side is formed in the end side of the longitudinal direction of the arm section 2 by burring which is press working of sheet metal. And the stop level difference section 8 from which a bore serves as path size by the insertion opening 5 side which is a tip side is formed in the inner skin of this tubed part 7. Moreover, the contact section 9 which becomes the inner skin by the side of the insertion opening 5 of a tubed part 7 from the stop level difference section 8 with the bore of path size further is formed in the shape of a level difference. Furthermore, the stop claw part 10 which attaches the projection swivel joint 3 in the common-law marriage part of the insertion opening 5 in the shape of a flange towards the method of inside compares, and it is prepared at the tip of a tubed part 7 according to foolish bundle deformation etc.

[0022] Moreover, the swivel joint 3 equips the bearing sheet 14 which carries out opening of the opening 11 to the end side of shaft orientations, and is held in a room 12 among the abbreviation box-like socket 13 with the inside room 12, and this socket 13, and this bearing sheet 14 with the ball stud 15 held possible [sliding].

[0023] And the socket 13 is equipped with the lock out plate 19 attached by blockading the idiosoma 18 which has the opening 11 which reduces the diameter of at the end of shaft orientations in the shape of a dome, and carries out opening to it by metal, and carries out opening of the attachment opening 17 to the other end, and which was formed approximately cylindrical, and the attachment opening 17 of this idiosoma 18. Moreover, the level difference section 20 from which an opening 11 side serves as small diameter is formed in the peripheral face of idiosoma 18. In addition, the die-length dimension to the edge as for which the attachment opening 17 carries out opening from the level difference section 20 of idiosoma 18 is formed in the die-length dimension and approximately the same size method from the stop level difference section 8 of the tubed part 7 of the arm section 2 to the contact section 9.

[0024] Furthermore, it is located in an opening 11 side and the level difference-like concave section 21 is formed in the peripheral face of idiosoma 18. In addition, when this concave section 21 is attached in the tubed part 7 of the arm section 2, an abbreviation location is carried out, namely, the distance from the level difference section 20 of idiosoma 18 to the concave section 21 is prepared in the field of the side and the opposite side where the tubed part 7 of the arm section 2 projects so that it may become the distance to the field of the side in which the tubed part 7 of the stop level difference section 8 to the arm section 2 of a tubed part 7 projects, and the opposite side, and a approximately the same size method.

[0025] Moreover, it is formed so that it may bulge in a whole surface side in embossing, and it is approximate circle tabular [in which the installation surface part 22 of an approximate circle drill concave was formed] so that it may be extended towards a side on the other hand, and as for the lock out plate 19, the abbreviation central part is formed in the bore and approximately the same size method of the contact section 9 the outer diameter was prepared in the tubed part 7 of the arm section 2.

[0026] And a socket 13 is inserted from the opening 11 side of idiosoma 18 from the insertion opening 5 which is the tip side of the tubed part 7 of the arm section 2, and the level difference section 20 of idiosoma 18 is stopped by the stop level difference section 8 of the arm section 2. While the lock out plate 19 is inserted from the tip side of a tubed part 7 and contacts the edge by the side of the attachment opening 17 of idiosoma 18, it is contacted by the contact section 9 of a tubed part 7, and the stop claw part 10 by which caulking deformation was carried out at the tip of a tubed part 7 is stopped in the periphery of the lock out plate 19, and is attached in the tubed part 7.

[0027] abbreviation held by the other end of the substantially rod-shaped shank 26 which fits a ball stud 15 in the opening 11 of a socket 13 by metal, and an end side derives from a socket 13 in a room 12 among sockets 13 through a narrow diameter portion 27 on the other hand -- the spherical head bulb 28 is formed and it is constituted. In addition, the male screw section 29 is formed in the point which is the end side of a shank 26.

[0028] Moreover, the bearing sheet 14 consists of a ball sheet 31 and a cushion 32, and is located and arranged between the head bulb 28 of a ball stud 15, and the inside of a socket 13. And the ball sheet 31 is fabricated with hard synthetic resin with the high rigidity and the elasticity of the load carrying capacity which has good bearing properties, such as polyacetal resin, and the cushion 32 is fabricated with comparatively elastic resin ingredients, such as polyurethane resin.

[0029] Furthermore, the ball sheet 31 has the cylinder idiosoma 34 of the shape of a cylinder which carries out opening of the insertion hole 33 with which the head bulb 28 of a ball stud 15 is inserted in an end, has the pars basilaris ossis occipitalis 35 prepared in the other end edge of this cylinder idiosoma 34 in the shape of a flange in the inner direction at one, and is formed in the shape of an abbreviation closed-end cylinder. And two or more wall-like parts 36 are projected and formed in the inside of a pars basilaris ossis occipitalis

35 towards the inner direction at the radial.

[0030] Moreover, a cushion 32 is formed in the abbreviation annular which can be fitted in the pars basilaris ossis occipitalis 35 of the ball sheet 31, the installation section 38 which contacts the installation surface part 22 of the lock out plate 19 which constitutes a socket 13 is formed in one edge, and the sliding section 39 to which an external surface side is laid in other edges at the inside side of a pars basilaris ossis occipitalis 35, and a head bulb 28 contacts an inside side possible [sliding] protrudes in the shape of a flange in one.

[0031] And a cushion 32 is fitted in so that the external surface side of the sliding section 39 may overlap the pars basilaris ossis occipitalis 35 of the ball sheet 31 in contact with the tip of wall-like parts 36 and 36, and the bearing sheet 14 is attached and held in a socket 13 in one in the shape of an abbreviation closed-end cylinder. Furthermore, from the insertion hole 33 of the ball sheet 31 of the bearing sheet 14, and the opening 11 of a socket 13, the shank 26 of a ball stud 15 projects to the method of outside, and is held possible [sliding of the head bulb 28 of a ball stud 15] in the bearing sheet 14.

[0032] On the other hand, the dust cover 41 is attached in the swivel joint 3. This dust cover 41 has the 1st attachment section 42 to which a rim part contacts the field of a side and the opposite side where the tubed part 7 of the arm section 2 projects, and is formed in approximate circle tubed with the 2nd attachment section 43 attached in the other end by abbreviation annular at the shank 26 of a ball stud 15 while a common-law marriage part engages with the concave section 21 of a socket 13 and attaches it in an end by abbreviation annular. And while attaching the 1st attachment section 42 of a dust cover 41 in a socket 13, the 2nd attachment section 43 is attached in the shank 26 of a ball stud 15, a dust cover 41 is attached, and the swivel joint 3 is constituted by the end section of the arm section 2.

[0033] Next, the actuation which manufactures the body 1 of universal-joint equipment of one gestalt of the above-mentioned implementation is explained.

[0034] First, while projecting and forming the approximately cylindrical tubed part 7 which carries out opening of the attachment opening 6 to a end face side while carrying out press working of sheet metal of the end section of an elongated plate-like steel plate, for example in the thickness direction, having shaft orientations in the thickness direction and carrying out opening of the insertion opening 5 to the whole surface side of a steel plate at a tip, the stop level difference section 8 and the contact section 9 are formed in inner skin.

[0035] And the idiosoma 18 which formed the level difference section 20 in the peripheral face, and was beforehand formed in it approximately cylindrical is inserted from an opening 11 side from the insertion opening 5 which is the tip side of the tubed part 7 of the arm section 2, and the level difference section 20 of idiosoma 18 is stopped in the stop level difference section 8 of the arm section 2.

[0036] On the other hand, the bearing sheet 14 is attached in the head bulb 28 of a ball stud 15. And insert the ball stud 15 which attached this bearing sheet 14 from the tip side of a shank 26 from the attachment opening 17 of the idiosoma 18 fitted in into the tubed part 7 of the arm section 2, a shank 26 is made to draw from the opening 11 of idiosoma 18 further, and a head bulb 28 is held in idiosoma 18.

[0037] Next, a lock out plate is inserted from the insertion opening 5 of a tubed part 7, and while making the edge by the side of the attachment opening 17 of idiosoma 18 contact, the contact section 9 of a tubed part 7 is made to contact.

[0038] And the socket 13 which carried out caulking deformation of the edge of the insertion opening 5 which is a part for the point of a tubed part 7 in the inner direction, stopped the stop claw part 10 formed by this caulking deformation to the periphery of the lock out plate 19, and held the head bulb 28 of a ball stud 15 possible [sliding] through the bearing sheet 14 in the tubed part 7 is attached, and a swivel joint 3 is constituted.

[0039] Then, while engaging and attaching the common-law marriage part of the 1st attachment section 42 of a dust cover 41 in the concave section 21 of a socket 13 and making a rim part contact the field of a side and the opposite side where the tubed part 7 of the arm section 2 projects, the shank 26 of a ball stud 15 is made to attach the 2nd attachment section 43, it attaches in a swivel joint 3, and the body 1 of universal-joint equipment is formed.

[0040] As mentioned above, the approximately cylindrical tubed part 7 which has shaft orientations in the thickness direction established in the abbreviation tabular arm section 2 The socket 13 equipped with the room 12 while holding the head bulb 28 of a ball stud 15 through the bearing sheet 14 can be fitted in only from the insertion opening 5 which is a tip side from the opening 11 side which is the side which the shank 26 of a ball stud 15 derives. It writes as the configuration which stops the stop claw part 10 which formed the point in the inner direction in total to the lock out plate 19 of the side and the opposite side where the ball stud 15 of a socket 13 projects, and attaches a swivel joint 3 in the arm section 2. It shakes and the

socket 13 of a swivel joint 3 can be attached certainly [there is nothing and].

[0041] And since the stop level difference section 8 which stops the level difference section 20 prepared in the inner skin of the tubed part 7 of the arm section 2 so that the insertion opening 5 side which is a tip side might serve as path size and the opening 11 side which the shank 26 of a ball stud 15 derives at the peripheral face of a socket 13 might serve as small diameter was formed, it shakes with easy structure and the socket 13 of a swivel joint 3 can be attached certainly that there is nothing.

[0042] Moreover, the idiosoma 18 which carried out opening of the opening 11 which inserts the shank 26 of a ball stud 15 in an end for a socket 13, carried out opening of the attachment opening 17 to the other end, and formed the level difference section 20 in the peripheral face, Since it constituted from a lock out plate 19 stopped by the stop claw part 10 which blockaded the attachment opening 17 of this idiosoma 18, and formed the tubed part 7 of the arm section 2 in total, The actuation which manufacture can do structure of a socket in an easy, easy configuration, blockades the attachment opening 17 for holding the head bulb 28 of the ball stud 15 of idiosoma 18 with the lock out plate 19, and forms a socket 13, Actuation which attaches a socket 13 in the arm section 2 can be performed in 1 actuation, and manufacturability can be improved. [0043] In addition, in the gestalt of the above-mentioned implementation, although the universal-joint equipment of a link mechanism used for the link mechanism of an automobile was explained, it is applicable to which other universal-joint equipments.

[0044] Moreover, although the socket 13 was constituted from idiosoma 18 and a lock out plate 19, attached idiosoma 18 in the arm section 2, attached the ball stud 15, the lock out plate 19 was attached, and the swivel joint 3 was attached in the arm section 2 and explained For example, when idiosoma 18 and the lock out plate 19 carry out diameter reduction processing of the opening 5 side for a socket 13 by integral construction, a ball stud 15 may be attached to a socket 13, a swivel joint 3 may be formed, and this swivel joint 3 may be attached in the arm section 2.

[0045] On the other hand, although the stop level difference section 8 of a tubed part 7 was made to stop the level difference section 20 of a socket 13 and being explained to it, while forming in the shape of [which turns a tubed part at a tip and extends it, for example] a trumpet, a socket 13 is formed in the shape of [used as small diameter] a cross-section abbreviation triangle as an outer diameter is located in an opening 11 side, and it is good also as fit-in of a socket 13 being possible only from the tip side of a tubed part 7. In addition, according to the configuration which formed the level difference section 20 stopped by the stop level difference section 8 of the gestalt of operation shown in above-mentioned drawing 1, the amount of protrusions of the shank 26 of the ball stud 15 to the arm section 2 can be set up with high precision. [0046]

[Effect of the Invention] It writes as the configuration which stops and attaches the stop claw part which formed possible [fit-in] only from the tip side, and formed the point in the inner direction in total in the side and the opposite side where the ball stud of a socket projects from the opening side of the socket which is the side from which the shank of a ball stud derives the tubed part of the arm section according to universal-joint equipment according to claim 1, and it shakes and a socket can be attached certainly [there is nothing and].

[0047] According to universal-joint equipment according to claim 2, since the stop level difference section which stops the level difference section prepared so that a tip side might serve as path size at the inner skin of the tubed part of the arm section in addition to the effectiveness of universal-joint equipment according to claim 1 and the opening side which the shank of a ball stud derives at the peripheral face of a socket might serve as small diameter was prepared, it shakes with easy structure and a socket can be attached certainly that there is nothing.

[0048] The idiosoma which according to universal-joint equipment according to claim 3 carried out opening of the opening which inserts the shank of a ball stud in an end in addition to the effectiveness of universal-joint equipment according to claim 1 or 2, carried out opening of the attachment opening to the other end, and prepared the level difference section in the peripheral face, Since it constituted from a lock out plate stopped in the stop claw part which blockaded attachment opening of this idiosoma and formed the tubed part of the arm section in total, Actuation which blockades attachment opening of idiosoma with a lock out plate, and forms a socket, and actuation which attaches a socket in the arm section can be performed in 1 actuation, and manufacturability can be improved.

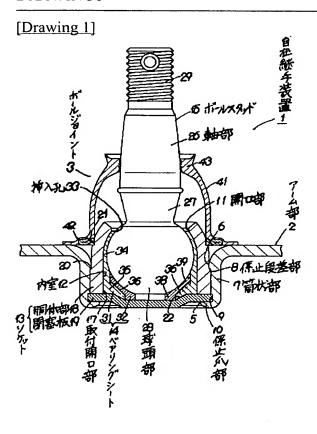
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DRAWINGS



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株式会社ソミック石川

東京都墨田区本所1丁目34番6号

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(72)発明者 鈴木 善博

静岡県浜松市古川町500番地 株式会社ソ

ミック石川浜松工場内

稲垣 和也 (72)発明者

静岡県浜松市古川町500番地 株式会社ソ

ミック石川浜松工場内

(74)代理人 100062764

弁理士 樺澤 襄 (外2名)

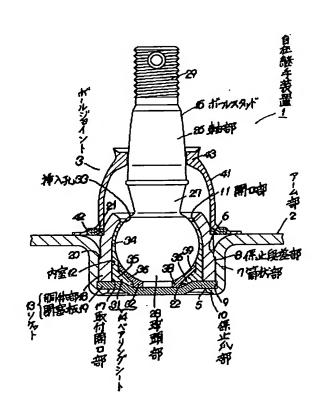
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(54) 【発明の名称】自在継手装置

(57) 【要約】

簡単な構造で容易にアーム部にボールジョイ ントを取り付けできる自在継手装置を提供する。

【解決手段】 鋼板をプレス加工して厚さ方向に軸方向 を有し先端に挿入開口部5を開口する略円筒状の筒状部 7を突出形成する。簡状部7の内周面に内径が先端側で 径大となる係止段差部8を設ける。略円筒状の胴体部18 の外周面に、ペアリングシート14を介してポールスタッ ド15の球頭部28を収容し軸部26が導出する開口部11側の 外径が径小となる段差部20を設ける。胴体部18を筒状部 7の先端側から挿入し、ボールスタッド15を組み付けた 胴体部18の取付開口部17側を閉塞板19にて閉塞する。筒 状部7の先端をかしめて形成した係止爪部10を閉塞板19 に係止してアーム部2にボールジョイント3を組み付け る。簡単な構造で確実にソケット13をがたつきなく取り 付けでき、製造性を向上できる。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 一端に球頭部を有した軸部を備えたボー ルスタッドと、

1

前記球頭部を摺動可能に収容し前記軸部が挿通される挿 入孔を閉口したペアリングシートと、

軸方向の一端に前記ボールスタッドの軸部を挿通する開 口部を開口し前記ペアリングシートに収容した前記ポー ルスタッドの球頭部を収容する内室を備えたソケット と、

略板状に形成され厚さ方向に軸方向を有する略筒状で、 前記ソケットを先端側からのみ嵌挿可能に嵌挿保持し、 先端部に内方にかしめ形成された係止爪部が嵌挿された 前記ソケットの前記ボールスタッドが突出する側と反対 側の他端縁に係止して前記ソケットを取り付ける筒状部 を有したアーム部とを具備したことを特徴とする自在継 手装置。

【請求項2】 ソケットは、外周面に開口部側が径小と なる段差部を有し、

アーム部の筒状部は、内周面に先端側が径大となり前記 ソケットの段差部に係止する係止段差部を有したことを 20 特徴とする請求項1記載の自在継手装置。

【請求項3】 ソケットは、一端にボールスタッドの軸 部を挿通する開口部を開口し他端に取付開口部を開口し 外周面に前記開口部側が小径となる段差部を設けた胴体 部と、前記取付開口部を閉塞しアーム部の筒状部にかし め形成される係止爪部が係止して取り付けられる閉塞板 とを具備したことを特徴とする請求項1または2記載の 自在継手装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、球頭部を摺動可能 に収容するソケットをアーム部に取り付けた自在継手装 置に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】従来、この種の自在継手装置としては、 例えば特開昭56-10816号公報および実公平5-26333号公報に記載の構成などが知られている。

【0003】そして、特開昭56-10816号公報に 記載の自在継手装置は、プレス加工によりアーム部に設 けた略円筒状の筒状部に、ボールスタッドの軸部の一端 40 に設けベアリングシートに収容された球頭部をソケット 内に収容して構成したポールスタッドのソケットを嵌挿 する。そして、筒状部の先端部分を内方にかしめ変形し てソケット外周面に設けた凹部に係合させ、ボールジョ イントをアーム部にクリップする。

【0004】しかしながら、この特開昭56-1081 6号公報に記載の自在継手装置では、ソケットの凹部に 筒状部の先端部分をかしめて精度よく係合させる工程が 煩雑であるとともに、係合によるソケットの保持力があ まり強くなく、使用の際にソケットとアーム部の筒状部 50

とにがたつきが生じるおそれがある。

【0005】また、実公平5-26333号公報に記載 の自在継手装置は、プレス加工であるバーリング加工に よりアーム部に設けた略円筒状の筒状部に、ボールスタ ッドの軸部の一端に設けベアリングシートに収容された 球頭部を収容してボールスタッドを構成するソケットを 嵌挿する。そして、ソケットのボールスタッドの軸部が 突出する側と反対側の端部を圧印加工などにてかしめて 筒状部の先端縁に係止させたり、筒状部の外周面を削り 10 取るようにプレス加工して余肉部分をさらにプレス加工 して筒状部の先端縁に変形して係止させ、アーム部にボ ールジョイントを取り付けている。また、ポールジョイ ントは、ソケットのボールスタッドの軸部が挿通する側 と反対側の端面に開口する取付開口部に閉塞板を嵌挿し て閉塞し、ソケットの取付開口部の縁を内方にかしめ変 形して閉塞板を取り付けることにより構成される。

【0006】しかしながら、上記実公平5-26333 号公報に記載の自在継手装置では、ソケットに閉塞板を 取り付けてボールジョイントを構成する工程と、ボール ジョイントを構成するソケットをアーム部に取り付ける 工程とが必要で、製造性のさらなる向上が図りにくい。 【0007】さらに、従来の自在継手装置として、ボー ルジョイントを構成するソケットをアーム部に溶接する ことによりアーム部にボールジョイントを取り付ける構 成も知られている。

【0008】しかしながら、このアーム部にボールジョ イントを構成するソケットを溶接する構成では、高精度 にソケットを溶接することが困難であるとともに、溶接 部分に錆止めの処理が必要となり、製造性の向上が図れ 30 ない。

[0009]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】上述したように、上記 特開昭56-10816号公報に記載の従来の自在継手 装置では、ソケットの凹部に筒状部の先端部分をかしめ て精度よく係合させる工程が煩雑であるとともに、使用 の際にソケットとアーム部の筒状部とにがたつきが生じ るおそれがある。

【0010】また、上記上記実公平5-26333号公 報に記載の従来の自在継手装置では、ソケットに閉塞板 を取り付けてポールジョイントを構成する工程と、ポー ルジョイントを構成するソケットをアーム部に取り付け る工程とが必要で、製造性のさらなる向上が図りにく 61

【0011】さらに、上記アーム部にポールジョイント を構成するソケットを溶接する構成では、高精度にソケ ットを溶接することが困難であるとともに、溶接部分に **錆止めの処理が必要となり、製造性の向上が図れない問** 題がある。

【0012】本発明は、上記問題点に鑑みなされたもの で、簡単な構造で容易にアーム部にボールジョイントを

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取り付けできる自在継手装置を提供することを目的とする。

[0013]

【課題を解決するための手段】請求項1記載の自在継手 装置は、一端に球頭部を有した軸部を備えたボールスタッドと、前記球頭部を摺動可能に収容し前記軸部が挿通 される挿入孔を開口したベアリングシートと、軸方向の 一端に前記ボールスタッドの軸部を挿通する開口部を開 口し前記ベアリングシートに収容した前記ボールスタッ ドの球頭部を収容する内室を備えたソケットと、略板状 10 に形成され厚さ方向に軸方向を有する略筒状で、前記ソケットを先端側からのみ嵌挿可能に嵌挿保持し、先端部 に内方にかしめ形成された係止爪部が嵌挿された前記ソケットの前記ボールスタッドが突出する側と反対側の他 端縁に係止して前記ソケットを取り付ける筒状部を有し たアーム部とを具備したものである。

【0014】そして、略板状のアーム部に設けられ厚さ 方向に軸方向を有しベアリングシートに収容されるボー ルスタッドの球頭部を収容する内室を備えたソケットを 先端側からのみ嵌挿可能に嵌挿保持する略円筒状の筒状 20 部の先端部を内方にかしめて形成した係止爪部をソケッ トのボールスタッドが突出する側と反対側の他端縁に係 止して取り付けるため、ソケットをがたつきなく確実に 取り付ける。

【0015】請求項2記載の自在継手装置は、請求項1 記載の自在継手装置において、ソケットは、外周面に開口部側が径小となる段差部を有し、アーム部の筒状部は、内周面に先端側が径大となり前記ソケットの段差部に係止する係止段差部を有したものである。

【0016】そして、アーム部の筒状部の内周面に、先 30端側が径大となり、ソケットの外周面に開口部側が径小となるように設けた段差部に係止する係止段差部を設けるため、簡単な構造で確実にソケットががたつきなく取り付けられる。

【0017】請求項3記載の自在継手装置は、請求項1 または2記載の自在継手装置において、ソケットは、一端にボールスタッドの軸部を挿通する開口部を開口し他端に取付開口部を開口し外周面に前記開口部側が小径となる段差部を設けた胴体部と、前記取付開口部を閉塞しアーム部の筒状部にかしめ形成される係止爪部が係止し40て取り付けられる閉塞板とを具備したものである。

【0018】そして、一端にボールスタッドの軸部を挿通する開口部を開口し外周面に開口部側が径小となる段差部を設けた胴体部の他端の取付開口部を閉塞板にて閉塞し、アーム部の筒状部をかしめて形成した係止爪部を閉塞板に係止して取り付けるため、ソケットを形成する動作と、ソケットをアーム部に取り付ける動作とが一動作となり、製造性が向上する。

[0019]

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の自在継手装置の実 50

施の一形態を図面を参照して説明する。

【0020】図1において、1は自在継手装置本体で、この自在継手装置本体1は、例えば図示しない自動車の車高センサアームとサスペンションを繋ぐリンク機構などに用いられる。そして、この自在継手装置本体1は、アーム部2を有している。このアーム部2は、例えば細長板状の鋼板にて形成され、長手方向の一端側にボールジョイント3が設けられている。

【0021】すなわち、アーム部2の長手方向の一端側には、厚さ寸法に沿って軸方向を有し突出する先端に挿入開口部5を開口するとともに基端側に取付開口部6を開口する略円筒状の筒状部7が例えばプレス加工であるパーリング加工などにより設けられている。そして、この筒状部7の内周面には、内径が先端側である挿入開口部5側で径大となる係止段差部8が設けられている。また、筒状部7の挿入開口部5側の内周面には、係止段差部8よりさらに径大の内径となる当接部9が段差状に形成されている。さらに、筒状部7の先端には、挿入開口部5の内縁部分に内方に向けてフランジ状に突出しボールジョイント3を取り付ける係止爪部10が例えばかしめ変形などにより設けられている。

【0022】また、ボールジョイント3は、軸方向の一端面に開口部11を開口し内室12を有した略箱状のソケット13と、このソケット13の内室12内に収容されるペアリングシート14と、このペアリングシート14に摺動可能に保持されるボールスタッド15とを備えている。

【0023】そして、ソケット13は、金属製で軸方向の一端にドーム状に縮径して開口する開口部11を有し他端に取付開口部17を開口する略円筒状に形成された胴体部18と、この胴体部18の取付開口部17を閉塞して取り付けられる閉塞板19とを備えている。また、胴体部18の外周面には、開口部11側が径小となる段差部20が設けられている。なお、胴体部18の段差部20から取付開口部17が開口する端部までの長さ寸法は、アーム部2の筒状部7の係止段差部8から当接部9までの長さ寸法と略同寸法に形成されている。

【0024】さらに、胴体部18の外周面には、開口部11側に位置して段差状の凹溝部21が設けられている。なお、この凹溝部21は、アーム部2の筒状部7に取り付けられた際に、アーム部2の筒状部7が突出する側と反対側の面に略位置する、すなわち胴体部18の段差部20から凹溝部21までの距離が筒状部7の係止段差部8からアーム部2の筒状部7が突出する側と反対側の面までの距離と略同寸法となるように設けられている。

【0025】また、閉塞板19は、略中央部分が例えばエンポス加工にて一面側に膨出するように形成され、他面側に向けて拡開するように略円錐凹状の載置面部22が形成された略円板状で、外径がアーム部2の筒状部7に設けられた当接部9の内径と略同寸法に形成されている。

【0026】そして、ソケット13は、アーム部2の筒状

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部7の先端側である挿入開口部5から胴体部18の開口部11側より挿入されアーム部2の係止段差部8に胴体部18の段差部20が係止され、閉塞板19が筒状部7の先端側から挿入されて胴体部18の取付開口部17側の端部に当接するとともに筒状部7の当接部9に当接され、筒状部7の先端にかしめ変形された係止爪部10が閉塞板19の周縁に係止されて筒状部7内に組み付けられている。

【0027】一方、ボールスタッド15は、金属製でソケット13の開口部11に嵌挿してソケット13から一端側が導出する略棒状の軸部26の他端に小径部27を介してソケッ 10ト13の内室12内に収容される略球状の球頭部28を設けて構成されている。なお、軸部26の一端側である先端部には、雄ねじ部29が設けられている。

【0028】また、ベアリングシート14は、ボールシート31とクッション32とにて構成され、ボールスタッド15の球頭部28とソケット13の内面との間に位置して配設されている。そして、ボールシート31はポリアセタール樹脂などの良好なベアリング特性を有する耐荷重性の高い剛性および弾性を有した硬質合成樹脂にて成形され、クッション32はポリウレタン樹脂などの比較的軟質の樹脂 20材料で成形されている。

【0029】さらに、ボールシート31は、一端にボールスタッド15の球頭部28が挿入される挿入孔33を開口する円筒状の円筒胴体部34を有し、この円筒胴体部34の他端縁に内方にフランジ状に一体に設けられた底部35を有し、略有底円筒状に形成されている。そして、底部35の内面には、放射状に複数の壁状部36が内方に向けて突出形成されている。

【0030】また、クッション32は、ボールシート31の 底部35に嵌挿可能な略環状に形成され、一縁にはソケット13を構成する閉塞板19の載置面部22に当接する載置部 38が設けられ、他縁には外面側が底部35の内面側に載置 され内面側に球頭部28が摺動可能に当接する摺動部39が 一体的にフランジ状に突設されている。

【0031】そして、ベアリングシート14は、ボールシート31の底部35に、摺動部39の外面側が壁状部36,36の先端に当接して重なり合うようにクッション32が嵌挿されて、略有底円筒状に一体的にソケット13内に組み付けられて収容される。さらに、ボールスタッド15の軸部26がベアリングシート14のボールシート31の挿入孔33およ40びソケット13の開口部11から外方に突出して、ベアリングシート14内にボールスタッド15の球頭部28が摺動可能に収容されている。

【0032】一方、ボールジョイント3には、ダストカバー41が取り付けられている。このダストカバー41は、一端に略環状で内縁部分がソケット13の凹溝部21に係合して嵌着するとともに外縁部分がアーム部2の筒状部7が突出する側と反対側の面に当接する第1の嵌着部42を有し、他端に略環状でボールスタッド15の軸部26に嵌着する第2の嵌着部43を有した略円筒状に形成されてい

る。そして、ダストカバー41の第1の嵌着部42がソケット13に嵌着するとともに、第2の嵌着部43がボールスタッド15の軸部26に嵌着してダストカバー41が取り付けられ、ボールジョイント3がアーム部2の一端部に構成されている。

【0033】次に、上記実施の一形態の自在継手装置本体1を製造する動作を説明する。

【0034】まず、例えば細長板状の鋼板の一端部を厚さ方向にプレス加工して、鋼板の一面側に厚さ方向に軸方向を有し先端に挿入開口部5を開口するとともに基端側に取付開口部6を開口する略円筒状の筒状部7を突出形成するとともに、内周面に係止段差部8および当接部9を形成する。

【0035】そして、あらかじめ外周面に段差部20を設けて略円筒状に形成された胴体部18を、アーム部2の筒状部7の先端側である挿入開口部5から開口部11側より挿入し、アーム部2の係止段差部8に胴体部18の段差部20を係止する。

【0036】一方、ボールスタッド15の球頭部28にベアリングシート14を取り付ける。そして、このベアリングシート14を取り付けたボールスタッド15を、アーム部2の筒状部7内に嵌挿した胴体部18の取付開口部17から軸部26の先端側より挿入し、さらに軸部26を胴体部18の開口部11から導出させて胴体部18内に球頭部28を収容する。

【0037】次に、筒状部7の挿入開口部5から閉塞板を挿入し、胴体部18の取付開口部17側の端部に当接させるとともに筒状部7の当接部9に当接させる。

【0038】そして、筒状部7の先端部分である挿入開口部5の縁を内方にかしめ変形し、このかしめ変形にて形成される係止爪部10を閉塞板19の周縁に係止して筒状部7内に、ベアリングシート14を介してボールスタッド15の球頭部28を摺動可能に収容したソケット13を組み付けてボールジョイント3を構成する。

【0039】この後、ダストカバー41の第1の嵌着部42の内縁部分をソケット13の凹溝部21に係合して嵌着し外縁部分をアーム部2の筒状部7が突出する側と反対側の面に当接させるとともに、第2の嵌着部43をボールスタッド15の軸部26に嵌着させてボールジョイント3に取り付け、自在継手装置本体1を形成する。

【0040】上述したように、略板状のアーム部2に設けた厚さ方向に軸方向を有する略円筒状の筒状部7を、ベアリングシート14を介してポールスタッド15の球頭部28を収容する内室12を備えたソケット13をボールスタッド15の軸部26が導出する側である開口部11側より先端側である挿入開口部5からのみ嵌挿可能で、先端部を内方にかしめて形成した係止爪部10をソケット13のポールスタッド15が突出する側と反対側の閉塞板19に係止してアーム部2にポールジョイント3を取り付ける構成とした50 ため、ボールジョイント3のソケット13をがたつきなく

確実に取り付けできる。

【0041】そして、アーム部2の筒状部7の内周面 に、先端側である挿入開口部5側が径大となり、ソケッ ト13の外周面にボールスタッド15の軸部26が導出する開 口部11側が径小となるように設けた段差部20を係止する 係止段差部8を設けたため、簡単な構造でがたつきなく ボールジョイント3のソケット13を確実に取り付けでき る。

【0042】また、ソケット13を、一端にポールスタッ ド15の軸部26を挿通する開口部11を開口し他端に取付開 10 口部17を開口し外周面に段差部20を設けた胴体部18と、 この胴体部18の取付開口部17を閉塞しアーム部2の筒状 部7をかしめて形成した係止爪部10にて係止される閉塞 板19とにて構成したため、ソケットの構造が製造が容易 な簡単な形状ででき、胴体部18のボールスタッド15の球 頭部28を収容するための取付開口部17を閉塞板19にて閉 塞してソケット13を形成する動作と、ソケット13をアー ム部2に取り付ける動作とを一動作ででき、製造性を向 上できる。

【0043】なお、上記実施の形態において、自動車の 20 リンク機構に用いられるリンク機構の自在継手装置につ いて説明したが、他のいずれの自在継手装置に適用でき

【0044】また、ソケット13を胴体部18と閉塞板19と にて構成し、アーム部2に胴体部18を取り付けてボール スタッド15を組み付け、閉塞板19を取り付けてポールジ ョイント3をアーム部2に取り付けて説明したが、例え ばソケット13を胴体部18と閉塞板19とが一体構造で、開 口部5側を縮径加工することによりボールスタッド15を ソケット13に組み付けてポールジョイント3を形成し、 このボールジョイント3をアーム部2に取り付けてもよ 61

【0045】一方、筒状部7の係止段差部8にソケット 13の段差部20を係止させて説明したが、例えば筒状部を 先端に向けて拡開するラッパ状に形成するとともに、ソ ケット13を外径が開口部11側に位置するにしたがって径 小となる断面略三角形状に形成して、筒状部7の先端側 からのみソケット13を嵌挿可能としてもよい。なお、上 記図1に示す実施の形態の係止段差部8に係止される段 差部20を設けた構成によれば、アーム部2に対するボー 40 ルスタッド15の軸部26の突出量を高精度に設定できる。

【発明の効果】請求項1記載の自在継手装置によれば、

アーム部の筒状部を、ボールスタッドの軸部が導出する 側であるソケットの開口部側より先端側からのみ嵌挿可 能に形成し、先端部を内方にかしめて形成した係止爪部 をソケットのボールスタッドが突出する側と反対側に係 止して取り付ける構成としたため、ソケットをがたつき なく確実に取り付けできる。

【0047】請求項2記載の自在継手装置によれば、請 求項1記載の自在継手装置の効果に加え、アーム部の筒 状部の内周面に、先端側が径大となり、ソケットの外周 面にボールスタッドの軸部が導出する開口部側が径小と なるように設けた段差部を係止する係止段差部を設けた ため、簡単な構造でがたつきなくソケットを確実に取り 付けできる。

【0048】請求項3記載の自在継手装置によれば、請 求項1または2記載の自在継手装置の効果に加え、一端 にボールスタッドの軸部を挿通する開口部を開口し他端 に取付開口部を開口し外周面に段差部を設けた胴体部 と、この胴体部の取付開口部を閉塞しアーム部の筒状部 をかしめて形成した係止爪部にて係止される閉塞板とに て構成したため、胴体部の取付開口部を閉塞板にて閉塞 してソケットを形成する動作と、ソケットをアーム部に 取り付ける動作とを一動作ででき、製造性を向上でき

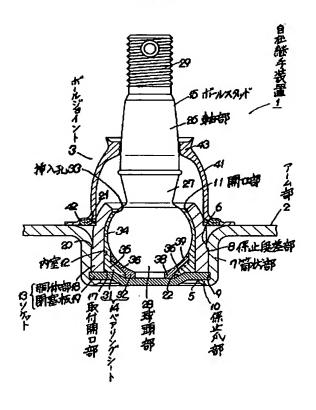
【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の自在継手装置の実施の一形態を示すー 部を切り欠いた側面図である。

【符号の説明】

- 自在継手装置本体 1
- アーム部 2
- 30 7 筒状部
 - 係止段差部 8
 - 係止爪部 10
 - 12 内室
 - 13 ソケット
 - 14 ベアリングシート
 - 15 ポールスタッド
 - 取付開口部 17
 - 18 胴体部
 - 19 閉塞板
 - 20 段差部
 - 26 軸部
 - 球頭部 28
 - 33 挿入孔





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(72)発明者 鈴木 学

静岡県浜松市古川町500番地 株式会社ソ ミック石川浜松工場内 Fターム(参考) 3J105 AA24 AA32 AB46 AB47 AB49 AC04 CA16 CB02 CB17 CB33

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